

Unsettled end to October – October 2020

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With the Atlantic continuing to dominate the UK weather forecast, we can expect the rest of the month to remain unsettled with heavy rain and strong winds, interspersed with brighter periods.

Typical autumnal weather

Chief Meteorologist Andy Page said: “Until the end of October we are looking at an unsettled spell of typical autumnal weather which will dominate the forecast. Every year we expect the remnants of decaying tropical hurricanes to disrupt conditions when they enter the North Atlantic.

“The remnants of former Hurricane Epsilon have been subsumed into another deep area of low pressure to the south-west of Iceland, and although the low centre is a long way from our shores and won’t cause disruption, the trailing weather fronts associated with this system will bring wind and rain to the UK, along with a potentially heavy swell.

National Severe Weather Warning

“However, it is rain rather than wind that will dominate our attention later in the week with a so-called ‘warm conveyor’ set up to bring a flow of very moist and warm air to the UK from further south in the Atlantic, triggering heavy rainfall for high ground in the west of the UK. We have issued a Yellow warning for rain covering parts of Wales, South West Scotland and North-west England for Thursday and Friday as additional rainfall in these areas may lead to impacts, including flooding.

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Wet and windy this week   

Low pressure is in charge through the rest of this week, bringing spells of heavy rain and gusty winds

Rain will be particularly heavy in Wales and northwest England on Thursday & Friday. A warning has been issued 

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Heavy rainfall

“Across the warning areas accumulations of 30–40mm of rain can be expected, while isolated areas exposed the strong south-westerly winds could see 50–80mm. We expect the heaviest rainfall to occur in the mountains of Wales where some areas could witness 130mm of rainfall.”

At the weekend, the forecast is showing potential for the remnants of ex-hurricane Zeta to move into the North Atlantic, with the associated moisture being entrained into the Atlantic frontal systems, to again bring the potential for further heavy rain to parts of the UK later in the weekend and into early next week. However, confidence at this time range is fairly low for this aspect of the forecast.

Andy Page added: “We will continue to monitor the situation, issue warnings accordingly, and work with partners to provide advice to the public.”

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